

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE  
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 0000

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NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, MARR, MASS, GR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: GREEK AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY  
AUG 1

REF: ATHENS 6551 (BEING REPEATED ANKARA AND NICOSIA)

1. DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER SAW GREEK AMBASSADOR  
ALEXANDRAKIS EARLY MORNING AUG 1 IN RESPONSE TO URGENT  
REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY TO DELIVER MESSAGE  
FROM PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS TO PRESIDENT.

2. AMBASSADOR BEGAN MEETING BY OBSERVING THAT WE HAD  
REACHED A CRITICAL POINT IN THE PROCESS TO LIFT THE  
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TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO. KEY FACTOR NOW WAS THE MANNER IN  
WHICH THE EMBARGO WOULD BE LIFTED. THIS WOULD BE VERY  
IMPORTANT IN GREECE TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S EFFORTS TO  
DEAL WITH THE DOMESTIC SITUATION IN THE WAKE OF LIFTING  
THE EMBARGO. ALEXANDRAKIS SAID THAT A RESULT ACCEPTABLE  
TO HIS GOVERNMENT COULD BE ACHIEVED IF THE ADMINISTRATION  
WOULD WORK TOWARD THIS END.

3. THE BYRD/MCGOVERN AMENDMENT ADOPTED BY THE SENATE HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT SOME OF THE MAJOR GREEK CONCERNS. HOWEVER, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED THAT THERE IS

AN EFFORT IN THE HOUSE TO REPEAL THE EMBARGO THROUGH AN AMENDMENT WHICH DID NOT CONTAIN LANGUAGE RESPONSIVE TO THESE GREEK CONCERNS ALTHOUGH IT DID MAKE CLEAR U.S. CONCERN FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO PRESERVATION OF THE PEACE IN THE AREA OR THE MILITARY BALANCE. THE DILEMMA WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER WILL FACE IN THE AFTERMATH OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WOULD BE EASED IF THE HOUSE VERSION COULD BE ALTERED TO INCLUDE THE ELEMENTS OUTLINED IN THE MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER.

4. AT THIS POINT THE AMBASSADOR HANDED TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY THE TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO THE PRESIDENT (TEXT IN ATHENS 6551). IN SUM, GOG SEEKS HOUSE VERSION OF BILL CONTAINING FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

A. THAT THE CYPRUS PROBLEM REMAIN A MAIN CONCERN OF THE U.S. AND THAT PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS CONTINUOUSLY REVIEW PROGRESS ON THAT ISSUE AND ACCORDINGLY DETERMINE U.S. POLICY ON GRANTING OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY;

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B. THAT MILITARY ASSISTANCE BE GIVEN SOLELY FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES AND DESIGNED TO INSURE THE PRESERVATION OF THE PRESENT MILITARY BALANCE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY; AND

C. THAT THE U.S. ACTIVELY SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES IN THE AEGEAN THROUGH PEACEFUL PROCEDURES AND SHALL "STRONGLY AND EFFECTIVELY" OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTES THROUGH FORCE.

5. AFTER READING THE TEXT, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY COMMENTED THAT HE WAS HAPPY TO HAVE THIS HELPFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE MESSAGE. BUT, HE TOLD ALEXANDRAKIS THAT NO ONE COULD PREDICT AT THIS POINT HOW THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS WOULD PROCEED. IT WAS HIS EXPECTATION, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WOULD BE AN AMENDMENT LATER AUG 1 OFFERED BY FASCELL AND OTHER OPPONENTS OF LIFTING THE EMBARGO WHICH WOULD STRIKE THE COMMITTEE PROPOSAL TO REPEAL SECTION 620(X). THEN IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT THE SUPPORTERS OF REPEAL (WRIGHT) WOULD INTRODUCE A SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD INTRODUCE WORDING PROVIDING FOR THE EMBARGO'S REMOVAL WHICH WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THE SENATE BYRD

AMENDMENT. THIS LATTER AMENDMENT WOULD CONTAIN SOME OF THE LANGUAGE OF THE SENATE BILL, INCLUDING SOME OF THE POINTS WHICH THE GOG IS SEEKING.

6. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY STATED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION

HAD MADE AN INPUT TO THE DRAFTING PROCESS, BUT RESPONSIBLE HOUSE MEMBERS HAD THE ULTIMATE SAY ON THE LANGUAGE OF THE AMENDMENTS. THE PRESIDENT IS NOT OPPOSED TO THE BYRD AMENDMENT AND THE CONCERNS SET FORTH IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE WERE REFLECTED IN LANGUAGE IN THE SENATE BILL. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT FOLLOWING HOUSE ACTION THE LEGISLATION WOULD GO TO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND THIS WOULD PROVIDE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO SECRET

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INSURE THAT THESE POINTS WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

7. ALEXANDRAKIS SAID THAT, IF HIS INFORMATION WAS CORRECT, THE AMENDMENT WHICH WRIGHT INTENDED TO INTRODUCE HAD BEEN STRIPPED OF MUCH THAT IS OF INTEREST TO GREECE -- EXCEPT FOR CYPRUS, WHICH OF COURSE IS OF PARAMOUNT CONCERN. ALEXANDRAKIS COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE PROPOSALS OF LIFTING THE EMBARGO WERE INTENT ON MAKING GREECE THE LOSER IN THIS BATTLE. THE MOST SATISFACTORY OUTCOME WOULD BE A BALANCED AMENDMENT WHERE THE OTHER SIDE COULD NOT TAKE COMFORT IN A GREAT VICTORY.

8. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS WORKING ASSIDUOUSLY TO PREVENT A RESULT WHICH WOULD GIVE THE IMPRESSION THERE WAS A WINNER AND A LOSER. HE HAD HIMSELF THAT SAME MORNING HAD COMPLAINTS FROM SUPPORTERS OF LIFTING THE EMBARGO THAT THE PRESENT AMENDMENT WAS PRO-GREEK. ALEXANDRAKIS INTERJECTED THAT THE GREEK SIDE WAS CONCEDING THAT THE EMBARGO WILL BE LIFTED AND ALL THEY ARE SUGGESTING IS SOME RHETORICAL LANGUAGE TO EASE THE CONSIDERABLE DOMESTIC PROBLEMS THEY ANTICIPATE. THE GREEKS ARE READY TO APPEAR PUBLICLY SATISFIED WITH THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, BUT PEOPLE ARE CREATING PROBLEMS EVEN IN LIGHT OF THIS MODERATE AND FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE.

9. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY INDICATED HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY TRANSMIT THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT AND THAT WE WOULD KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE. HE ASKED THAT ALEXANDRAKIS ASSURE THE PRIME MINISTER THAT WE WILL KEEP THESE POINTS IN MIND WHEN THE AMENDMENTS WERE CONSIDERED IN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

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10. ALEXANDRAKIS PRESSED AGAIN FOR SOME ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT BY THE ADMINISTRATION AT THIS LATE STAGE TO SEEK A HOUSE AMENDMENT MORE FULLY RESPONSIVE TO GREEK CONCERNS WOULD EMERGE. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY PROMISED TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE BUT STRESSED THAT VOTING WOULD TAKE PLACE IN A MATTER OF HOURS. HE CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY STATING THAT THE ADMINISTRATION

CONTINUED TO ATTACH A HIGH PRIORITY TO NOT CREATING ADDITIONAL DIFFICULTIES FOR GREECE AS WE WORK THROUGH THE PROCESS OF LIFTING THE EMBARGO AND THAT WE WOULD ATTEMPT TO DO WHAT WE COULD TO MEET THEIR CONCERNS.

11. SHORTLY AFTER THE MEETING THE DEPUTY SECRETARY CALLED AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS TO INFORM HIM THAT, ALTHOUGH HE CONTINUED TO FEAR THAT IT WAS TOO LATE TO CHANGE THE WORDING OF THE AMENDMENT, COUNSELOR NIMETZ AND EUR/SE DIRECTOR EWING WOULD GO TO THE HILL TO SEE IF THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY OF MAKING SOME CHANGES IN THE EXISTING AMENDMENTS.

12. NIMETZ AND EWING MET WITH ALEXANDRAKIS OFF HOUSE GALLERY AS DEBATE WAS IN PROGRESS AFTERNOON AUG 1 TO CONFIRM THAT DEPT HAD TALKED WITH HAMILTON BUT THAT IT WAS JUST NOT POSSIBLE AT LATE DATE TO INTRODUCE CHANGES IN WRIGHT TEXT. NIMETZ REITERATED OUR INTENTION KEEP KARAMANLIS' POINTS IN MIND DURING CONFERENCE COMMITTEE PROCESS. HE ALSO INFORMED ALEXANDRAKIS THAT DRAFT STATEMENT DEPT HAD PREPARED FOR WHITE HOUSE CONSIDERATION SHOULD WRIGHT AMENDMENT PASS HAD INCLUDED SOME OF SAME POINTS.

13. FYI: AT SEVERAL POINTS DURING THE DISCUSSION THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THE DELICACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE. END FYI. VANCE

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